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Consolidated and Reformed Workforce
Development and Literacy Act (1976)

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Consolidated and Reformed Workforce Development and Literacy Act (1976): Speech 06

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ISSUE: Priority of the delivery of services

BACKGROUND: Evaluations and decades of experience have shown that some kind of targeting of training provisions are needed in order to avoid the problem of "creaming" (serving those that are the easiest to place) at the expense of those in the most need of training.

The Senate bill does not prioritize the delivery of services. The House bill on the other hand, requires in various ways that priority be given to a number of groups: dislocated workers, displaced homemakers, economically disadvantaged individuals, single parents, single pregnant women, etc.

The proposed Conference agreement does not adequately ensure that the needs of dislocated workers, low-income workers, and out-of-school youth will receive a priority for the limited amount of money in this bill.

TALKING POINTS: This is a job training bill and we should make sure that the limited amount of money be used for job training.

With no strong accountability system and no priority for displaced workers, states may well have the tendency to serve only those groups that are easiest for them to serve; leaving those most in need out in the cold.

As this nation moves from a blue collar to a high tech economy we need to be sure to provide the right training. The welders and pipefitters at Electric Boat in North Kingstown need to be trained for totally new skills.